

SEDUM BOOLEANUM (CRASSULACEAE), A NEW RED-FLOWERED SPECIES FROM NUEVO LEÓN, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Sedum*, *S. booleanum* B.L. Turner, is described from Nuevo León, México where it occurs in gypsum outcrops. The taxon is red-flowered and has the habit of *Villadia* but the petals are separate to the base, or nearly so, suggesting a position in *Sedum* where it apparently has no close relatives. A photograph of living material is also presented, along with a photograph of its namesake.

KEY WORDS: Crassulaceae, *Sedum*, systematics, México, Nuevo León

Routine identification of Mexican plants has revealed the following novelty, which was called to my attention by the collectors concerned.

SEDUM BOOLEANUM B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Rayones, Cerro Blanco, 1340 m, gypsum hillsides, forming colonies, 27 Feb 1990, *Hinton et al.* 20468 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!).

Succulenta erecta, perennis, radicibus fibris, 5-8 cm alta. Caules 3-4 cm diametro prope basim (ubi siccati) et papilloso. Folia (siccata) ovata, papillosa, 7-10 mm longa, 3-4 mm lata, gradim diminuta ab imo caulis (ubi mox decidua) ad apicem per 1/2-2/3 suas longitudines superposita ut caulem celent. Flores 5-10, terminaliter dispositae in ramis brevibus circinatisque, inflorescentiam congestam, 1-2 cm latam, circa 1 cm altam facientes. Sepala 5, ovata, glabra, circa 3 mm longa, 1.5 mm lata, latissima prope medium, libra vel paene libra ad basim, costis dorsalibus prominentibus. Stamena 5, alternata, petalis circa 3 mm longis, antheris luteis in plantis maturis. Carpella 5, 2-5 mm alta per anthesin, stylis erectis, circa 1 mm longis. Fructus maturi non visi.

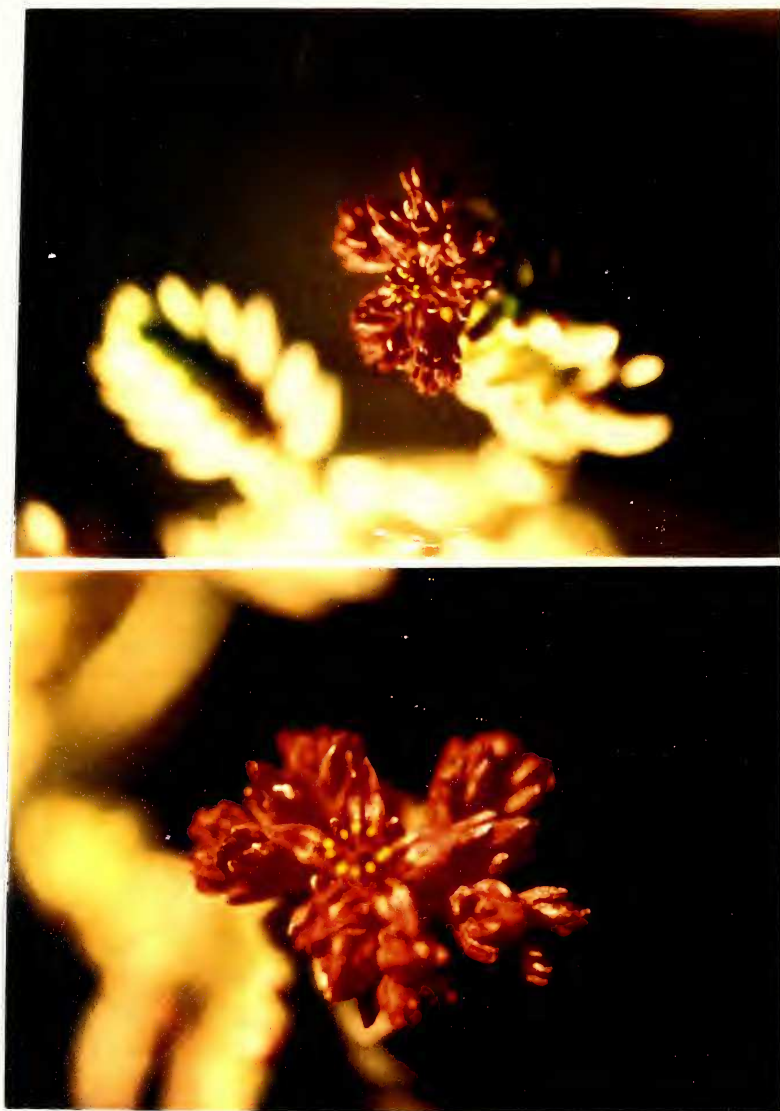


Figure 1. *Sedum booleanum*, photograph of type material.



Figure 2. George Boole Hinton, in the field on Rancho Aguililla, Nuevo León, México, at the type locality of *Paronychia hintoniorum* (cf. p. 38 this issue).

Erect fibrous-rooted perennial (?) succulent 5-8 cm high. Stems near base 3-4 mm across (when dried), papillose. Leaves (dried) ovate, papillose, 7-10 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, gradually reduced from the bottom of the stem (where soon deciduous) upwards, overlapping for 1/2-2/3 their lengths so as to obscure the stem. Flowers 5-10, arranged terminal on short circinnate branches, forming a congested inflorescence 1-2 cm wide, ca. 1 cm high. Sepals 5, ovate, glabrous, ca. 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, widest at or near the middle, free to the base, or nearly so, with a pronounced dorsal midrib. Stamens 5, alternate with the petals, ca. 3 mm long, the anthers yellow at maturity. Carpels 5, in flower ca. 2.5 mm long, the styles erect, ca. 1 mm long. Mature fruit not available.

According to the collectors, the type was collected at the date given above, subsequently flowering at their residence on 27 June 1990 from which herbarium material was made, this constituting the holotype. The photograph (Figure 1) was also made from type material.

Vegetatively, *Sedum booleanum* much resembles species of the genus *Villadia*, but the flowers appear to be like those of *Sedum*, the petals free to the base, or nearly so.

It is a pleasure to name this very attractive red flowered *Sedum* for George Boole Hinton, age 5 (Figure 2), the great grandson of the well-known Mexican collector, George B. Hinton (1880-1943). In spite of his relative youth, George Boole has become a fourth generation plant collector in México. He reportedly often accompanies both his father, George, and his grandfather, James, on various collection expeditions to the Sierra Madre Oriental of northeastern México. Let's hope he continues this familial tradition.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Gayle Turner for the Latin diagnosis, and to her and Mark Mayfield for reviewing the manuscript.